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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Inner-city ministry seeks creative witness

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — As the temperature inched its way to a record high of 99 degrees in New Orleans, Barbara Boyd faced just another hot August day without air conditioning. Why should this day be any different? At 51, Barbara has never lived in a home with air conditioning — until now.

On a sultry Monday afternoon, Perry Hancock, an associate professor of Christian education at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), and Bonnie Peters, a member of New Orleans' Desire

Housing Development resident council, knocked at Boyd's Desire apartment, delivering not only an air conditioner but also the good news that Jesus loves and cares for her.

As the air conditioner was brought up the steps to her second-floor apartment, Boyd sat in awe on the front steps not knowing what to say at first.

"This makes me feel, well, ... wow! There is a Lord above," Boyd said.

Stories like this began circulating around New Orleans in June 1997 after Hancock and his wife, Tonya, founded Creative Ministries. Their passion for meeting the personal needs of people and telling them about Jesus began 12 years ago when he first became a pastor.

What started with giving out 10,000 cups of cold water and 500 Bibles at a county fair has matured into a year-round ministry through which love, care, and a positive Christian witness are displayed in unique social ministries.

This summer, the seminary began installing its own air conditioners in all student apartments, a task that in the past had been the responsibility of the students.

Many students were left with the question of what to do with their personal air conditioners now that the resell market for the air conditioners was almost non-existent on campus.



COOL CONVERSATION — New Orleans Seminary associate professor Perry Hancock (left) and housing official Bonnie Peters (right) talk with Barbara Boyd (second from left) and her son Derrick while an air conditioner is being installed in the Peters' apartment in the Desire housing project in New Orleans. (Photo courtesy of New Orleans Seminary)

The air-conditioner ministry was born. Although the project began only a couple months ago, nearly 40 units have been installed in apartments where elderly residents have been suffering through this summer's above-average temperatures.

"The need is so great and sometimes can be overwhelming," Hancock admitted. The fact that Desire is the second-largest public housing development in America, housing thousands of children, families and senior adults who live there in poverty and have little hope of change, does not deter those involved with Creative Ministries from wanting to show the love of God to Desire residents.

Acting as a clearinghouse for the ministry's projects, the Hancocks' living room is full of boxes for the next back-to-school project. Adding one school at a time, Creative Ministries will be completely outfitting children from two schools this year with necessary supplies. These two schools educate 90 percent of the children from two New Orleans public housing developments.

The Hancocks' vision is for other cities to begin similar programs where individuals and churches partner together in these unique social ministries. For more information, write Creative Ministries, 4315 Iroquois Street, New Orleans, LA 70126 or call (504) 282-2362.

SHARING WITNESS — Carol (left) and James Byrd (second from left) watch as the air conditioner they donated from their New Orleans Seminary apartment is removed by seminary workers Frank Pembrick (second from right) and Rudolph Rogers. The air conditioners are being used as a creative witness to lower-income New Orleans residents. (Photo courtesy of New Orleans Seminary)

## Book Stores to become LifeWay

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The national chain of Baptist Book Stores, owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, became LifeWay Christian Stores on Aug. 27.

The change was announced with the opening of a 75th location in Franklin, Tenn., near Cool Springs Mall. Both the Franklin and downtown Nashville stores will use the LifeWay name immediately.

After several years of operating under several names — including Baptist Book Stores, LifeWay Christian Stores, and a variety of established names of acquired individual stores — transition to use of the new name for all locations in the chain will begin in January 1999, according to Mark Scott, vice president of the retail group for LifeWay Christian Resources. He said the change will include catalog services and the Internet commerce site at [www.lifewaystores.com](http://www.lifewaystores.com).

On July 1, LifeWay introduced an on-line store which offers thousands of products for sale via the Internet. An initiative of LifeWay's retail group, the resource is a collaboration with two other major components of LifeWay Christian Resources — LifeWay Church Resources, and Broadman & Holman Publishers.

The store offers almost all undated products produced by LifeWay and items from other companies offered by the retail group's catalog store. It is available to anyone who has Internet access anywhere in the world.

Looking back

10 years ago

Richard Land, academic vice-president of Criswell College in Dallas, is recommended to trustees as the new executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville. He replaces Larry Baker, who resigned after serving for only 16 months.

20 years ago

Nettie Rae Traylor agreed to take a summer job with the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in 1928 at the urging of WMU head Margaret Lackey. Fifty years later, she is retiring after 36 years as WMU executive assistant and 14 years helping run things at Camp Garawa in Clinton.

50 years ago

"Let Go — Let God" is the theme for the youth revival held at Calvary Church, Jackson. Seventy-one decisions for Christ are recorded during the revival. Barney Walker Jr. and Truitt Boyd are the speakers, with James Merritt serving as song leader.

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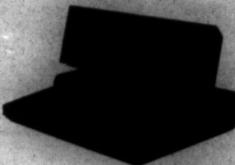
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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Hard lessons from a national tragedy

**M**uch commentary has been made lately of the painful revelations vaulting the President of the United States onto the rather long list of political, cultural, and religious leaders guilty of moral failure — and rightly so if we keep in mind that:

- ◆ he is not the first and surely will not be the last leader to disappoint us, and
- ◆ only the sinless are qualified to condemn him (John 8:3-11).

Those points established, however, there still are many lessons from this national tragedy we would be wise to learn ourselves and teach to our children. The first lesson is about character.

During my youth I often marveled at the accuracy with which my grandfather could size up people. As my own age now nears his age in the year of my birth, I think I understand.

He put a lot of stock in a person's character, as did virtually all the upstanding men of his "word-as-bond" generation. He simply couldn't understand why some people would choose to forsake a promise sealed with a handshake, or why someone would ignore responsibilities once accepted, or why a fellow couldn't conduct himself as the decent Christian gentleman he professed to be.

I observed that he avoided a lot of mistakes by assessing character. He knew that a person's character — or lack thereof — is a near-perfect indicator of future conduct.

I believe that's why his strongest admonitions, and harshest rebukes, were reserved for the times when I youthfully failed to exercise character.

Character is defined in Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary as, "the complex of mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person, group, or nation."

In other words, character does, indeed, "count." In fact, character is destiny. We would be wise to remember those facts both as individuals and as a nation.

The second (and associated) lesson is that a person's private conduct cannot be neatly separated from his/her public life. That may seem like a laughably obvious state-

ment, but polls indicate that many Americans apparently believe such social schizophrenia is workable.

It's not. If anyone learned that lesson the hard way, it was King David (2 Sam. 11-24). Because of his "private" sin, his public life as the leader of Israel was compromised; he and his family were visited by near-constant tumult; and Israel suffered one upheaval after another.

Even though David was truly repentant and forgiven by God, he and his nation ultimately paid a high price for his "private" moral failure.

We don't have a perfect understanding of how all those private/public matters somehow worked together to bring David low, but we do have the record to prove it happened that way. That should be enough.

Lastly, we should all learn a lesson about truth. Novelist and commentator Mark Helprin recently described truth as a spiritual and natural force that we often believe can be manipulated or suppressed, but which nonetheless eventually runs its course in all our lives.

In our egocentric way, we regard truth as a commodity in the eye of the beholder rather than the irrefutable cosmic system, similar to gravity or mathematics, that it really is.

Whatever the political outcome in Washington, may we not forget the impor-

"THE JURY IS HOPELESSLY DEAD-LOCKED, YOUR HONOR. FIVE ARE FOR CONVICTION, SIX FOR ACQUITTAL AND ONE JUST KEEPS QUOTING ROMANS 8:1!"



tant spiritual insights that have been produced by this national tragedy — and before the final curtain falls, there will likely be enough of those to fill a book. May we not repeat them any time soon.

May our prayers come from a heart broken by the realization of sin in our own lives and the understanding of how far we would be from the Father if not for the Son.

Through our tears and grief, may our repentance for the hard lessons we are now learning be used to daily draw us closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

That is, after all, as it should be.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Getting down to the cobwebs

By Ramona Lynn Moore, member Dry Creek Church, Mendenhall

Spirit found when he came to clean up the place.

There may be cigarettes in the ashtray, a beer in the fridge, a dirty magazine under the bed, and even drugs hidden in a drawer. It's all got to go, and your willingness to help will determine how long the Holy Spirit has to work at cleaning up the mess.

Once the larger, more noticeable messes are cleaned up, it's time to look in the mirror and start on the smaller jobs.

Is that too much makeup? I need a shave really bad! My clothes? Why would I want to

wear something like this?

The Holy Spirit is whispering in your ear, "I am consecrating you. You're becoming holy and set apart for me."

Then you return your focus to the eyes in mirror. Where did those sparkles come from? They were never there before. Look at the glow! Look at the life!

The Holy Spirit again whispers, "Your eyes mirror your soul. How beautiful you're becoming! We are making progress, but hang on."

The phone rings. It's your favorite gossip partner.

You say to the Holy Spirit,

"Gossip? You mean my gossip has to go?"

The Holy Spirit again whispers, "Time to get into those cracks and crevices — even down to the cobwebs. Scrub those thoughts and examine every action and word."

"Wash out that dirt and replace it with words that encourage, words that uplift, words that bring peace."

After all the cleaning is done, stand back and take a look at yourself. What a transformation!

The Holy Spirit whispers a final word of advice: "This is my holy, refined temple. Don't allow Satan to bring any more garbage into my house."

"When he knocks at your door, ask him, 'Are you blind? Have you not noticed? Open your eyes and look around. The Master has come home.'

"Take your garbage back to hell, where it came from. I have been made the righteousness of God through the blood of the Lamb, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!"

# Board sends '99 CP budget to messengers

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communications Director

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) unanimously approved a proposed 1999 state Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$26.6 million for Mississippi Baptists during their regularly-scheduled August 25 meeting in Jackson.

The total 1999 CP budget of \$26,607,890, a 4.15% increase over the 1998 budget, now awaits approval of messengers to the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson.

The motivation behind next year's proposed budget structure "is to reinforce the mission intention of Mississippi Baptists," said Bobby Kirk, member of Roundaway Church, Doddsdale, and chair of the MBCB budget committee.

Kirk said Mississippi Baptist resident membership amounts to 2.67% of Southern Baptist Convention membership, yet Mississippians gave nearly 11% of last year's total gifts to the Lottie Moon

## Christmas Offering for International Missions

The four main sections of the 1999 CP budget consist of Southern Baptist causes, \$9,844,919, or 37% of the total; the convention's matching portion of church annuity funds, \$768,000, or 2.89% of the total; Mississippi institutions and agencies, \$6,784,588, or 25.5% of the total; and MBCB, \$9,210,383, or 34.61% of the total.

Under the category of Southern Baptist causes, a new method of distribution was adopted by board members, giving \$9,194,319 through the Southern Baptist Convention — the same amount as 1998 — and sending \$650,600 to directly fund missions.

There are four areas under the directly-funded section, including home mission work in Mississippi, which has had separate funding for several years and is proposed to continue in 1999 with \$251,483.

Three items are funded for the first time at \$133,039, or .5% of the total budget:

- International missions (World A — unreached nations).
- International partnership missions.

● North American partnership missions. The International Missions/World A funds will go to areas where there is no witness for Jesus Christ, such as certain countries in North Africa and parts of India, according to Kirk.

In February of this year, the MBCB Executive Committee voted to send \$250,000 to World A missions. Those funds are awaiting project development.

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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The International partnership funds are planned for work in such areas of the world as Ukraine, where Mississippi Baptists are considering a missions partnership beginning in 1999.

Some of the money could help co-sponsor pastors whose churches want them to participate in missions but could not finance such a trip entirely, Kirk said.

The North American partnership funds are earmarked for stateside partnerships, along the lines of the current Mississippi/Colorado Partnership Missions project.

Under the Mississippi institutions and agencies section, the Baptist Children's Village requested a half-million dollars, and received \$505,740, Kirk noted.

In honor of the Village's 100th anniversary in 1998, the convention voted to give the Village additional funds to sponsor its work for seven days.

Kirk said Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, headquartered in Jackson, requested no CP funds.

Under the MBCB section, a capital needs item calls for \$525,000. Most of those funds would be used to amortize any loans necessary to fund planned renovations at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian and building projects at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. (See separate story on board actions.)

The 1999 state CP budget also retains the "challenge" portion from previous years. Should CP giving by Mississippi Baptists exceed the \$26.6 million budget in 1999, four entities will receive funds in pre-arranged percentages:

- Christian education, 50%.
- International missions, 30%.
- North American missions, 10%.
- Mississippi missions, 10%.

In a change from the current budget, the 1999 budget moves five percent of the challenge funds from Mississippi missions to International missions.

For more information on the 1999 state CP budget and the budgeting process, contact the MBCB business office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

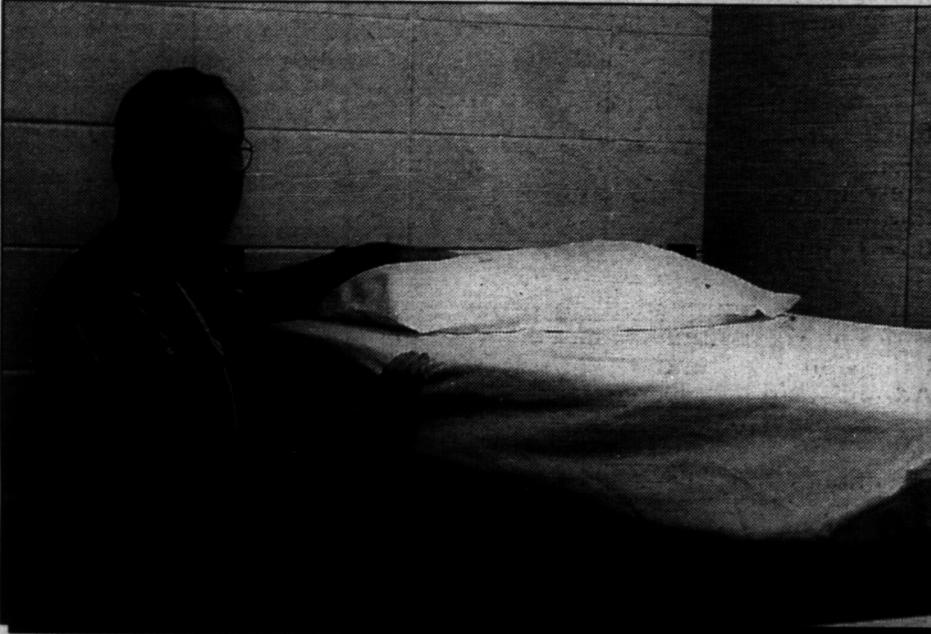
	1998 Budget	1999 Budget	Percent of Total	Dollar Incr/Decr	Percent Incr/Decr
<b>Southern Baptist Causes</b>					
Southern Baptist Convention Budget Formula:					
SBC Opening	305,251	305,251	1.15%	0	0.00%
International Mission Board	4,597,160	4,597,160	17.28%	0	0.00%
North American Mission Board	2,093,385	2,093,385	7.87%	0	0.00%
Annuity Board	69,877	69,877	0.26%	0	0.00%
SBC Seminaries	1,989,651	1,989,651	7.48%	0	0.00%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	136,995	136,995	0.51%	0	0.00%
Directly Funded Missions:					
International Missions (World A - Unreached Nations)	0	133,039	0.50%	133,039	100.00%
International Partnership Missions	0	133,039	0.50%	133,039	100.00%
North American Partnership Missions	0	133,039	0.50%	133,039	100.00%
Home Mission Work in Mississippi	257,926	251,483	0.95%	(6,443)	(2.50%)
Total	2,452,245	2,844,919	37.00%	392,674	4.15%
<b>Shared Responsibilities -MBC Matching Portion</b>					
Church Annuity	720,000	768,000	2.89%	48,000	6.67%
Total	720,000	768,000	2.89%	48,000	6.67%
<b>Mississippi Institutions and Agencies</b>					
Baptist Children's Village	552,500	505,740	1.90%	(46,760)	(8.46%)
Board of Ministerial Education	295,000	330,000	1.24%	35,000	11.86%
Christian Action Commission	281,078	294,233	1.11%	13,155	4.68%
Christian Education	4,387,305	4,612,411	17.33%	225,106	5.13%
Christian Education Capital Needs	650,000	650,000	2.44%	0	0.00%
Historical Commission	48,020	52,015	0.20%	3,985	8.30%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	318,663	340,189	1.28%	21,526	6.76%
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems					
Total	6,532,576	6,784,588	25.50%	252,012	3.86%
<b>Mississippi Baptist Convention Board</b>					
Baptist Record	569,826	520,821	1.96%	(49,005)	(8.60%)
Broadcast Services	209,585	216,655	0.81%	7,070	3.37%
Brotherhood	391,211	385,378	1.45%	(5,633)	(1.44%)
Business Div/Acc & Pers Services	422,031	426,765	1.60%	4,734	1.12%
Church Admin/Church Bldg Services	272,826	281,134	1.06%	8,308	3.05%
Church Music	359,895	381,321	1.43%	21,426	5.95%
Church/Minister Relations	286,156	297,961	1.12%	10,905	3.81%
Computer Information Services	264,068	272,892	1.03%	8,824	3.34%
Convention & Convention Committees	88,050	91,200	0.34%	3,150	3.58%
Discipleship & Family Ministry	511,960	544,340	2.05%	32,380	6.32%
Evangelism Promotion	201,755	217,336	0.82%	15,581	7.72%
Exec. Director's Office	332,827	377,318	1.42%	44,491	13.37%
Gulfshore Operations	355,304	383,234	1.44%	28,020	7.89%
Ministry Office	248,716	314,924	1.18%	66,208	26.62%
Missions Extension Assoc Admin	616,133	641,861	2.41%	25,728	4.18%
Office of Communication	273,906	282,574	1.06%	8,668	3.16%
Stewardship	243,681	265,232	1.00%	21,551	7.96%
Student Work	1,294,436	1,348,382	5.07%	53,946	4.17%
Sunday School	579,504	601,645	2.26%	22,141	3.82%
Woman's Missionary Union	574,925	577,485	2.17%	2,560	0.43%
Youth Night/Youth Weeks	52,700	56,700	0.21%	4,000	7.59%
Church Growth Teams	179,525	200,835	0.75%	21,210	11.81%
Capital Needs	510,667	525,000	1.97%	14,333	2.81%
Total	8,841,787	9,210,303	34.61%	368,596	4.17%
<b>Total Cooperative Program Budget</b>	<b>25,946,506</b>	<b>26,497,870</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1,061,282</b>	<b>4.15%</b>
<b>Challenge Portion Percentages:</b>					
Christian Education	50%	50%			
International Missions	25%	30%			
North American Missions	10%	10%			
Mississippi Missions	15%	10%			

For information on additional actions taken during the Aug. 25 MBCB meeting, please turn to page four of this issue.

# Jackson Association welcomes missionaries

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Jackson Association in Pascagoula has a place for church groups to stay when they come to conduct missions projects along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, according to Tommy Miller.



READY AND WAITING — Tommy Miller, director of Jackson Association's multi-housing ministries in Pascagoula, inspects sleeping facilities used by church groups while on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for mission projects. Miller, who manages the facility for Jackson Association, reported a busy summer with most of the beds reserved for the 14 groups who travelled to the coast for mission projects. (Photo by Carl M. White)

director of the association's multi-housing ministries.

This summer, 14 groups made use of the ministry building, which includes a dormitory facility with bunks for up to 24 people, Miller said.

The Flack building was completed in 1971 to house the association's offices.

When a new office building was built in 1995, the Flack building was converted into a ministry center with the dormitory facility, Miller indicated.

"The building has separate bath and sleeping areas for male and female, youth and adults, with a dining area and kitchen facilities," he said.

From June through August of this year, a total of 285 workers from 14 different churches conducted mission work at 16 locations in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area.

"Three of the churches were

local, while the others were mostly from in-state," Miller said. There were also groups from Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama.

"We had 285 workers, 532 children enrolled in various ministries, and saw 15 professions of faith and four surrender to some phase of Christian ministry," he said.

While the 1998 summer schedule was full, Miller indicated that there were three open weeks when the facility was not in use.

"We would like to fill it each week," he added.

In addition to the availability of the dorm facilities, Miller said he will also help church groups line up mission work along the coast.

There are a number of apartment complexes where groups can lead Backyard Bible Clubs or Vacation Bible Schools, Miller said.

In addition, the association has worked with the local YMCAs to help at several of their summer sites, Miller said.

Three feature ministries on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are the two International Seaman's Centers in Pascagoula and Gulfport, and the Truckers and Travelers Center in Pascagoula. The Gulfport Seaman's

Center is also supported by Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport.

Miller said one missions group this summer boarded a Korean ship.

"Many of the seamen are not allowed to leave the ships, so we have to go to them," Miller explained.

Groups can help at the Seaman's Centers. At the Truckers and Travelers Center, groups can serve meals, clean and sort clothing, do yard work, prepare food, or do any number of other tasks.

Because many youth groups also have ministry teams such as choirs, ensembles, or puppet teams, Miller said he will help line up places where the groups can perform.

"Groups can sing or visit local churches. I will locate a church that will have them on a Wednesday night or a Sunday," Miller said.

"Whatever they have, we will try and match them up with a church and a need," he pointed out.

For more information, contact Miller at Jackson Association, P.O. Box 1726, Pascagoula, MS 39586-1726. Telephone: (601) 769-7101.

## MBCB approves renovations, building projects

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communications Director

In addition to approval of a 1999 state Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$26.6 million, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) on Aug. 25 voted unanimously to fund:

- ◆ Major renovations to Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.
- ◆ Building projects at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko.
- ◆ Three church site acquisition funding requests.

The board also unanimously approved a pair of resolutions, the first honoring Bill Causey, retiring MBCB executive director-treasurer, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in the ministry; and the second honoring late Jerry Clower, internationally-known humorist and devoted Mississippi Baptist layman.

The Gulfshore Assembly renovations on buildings up to 20 years old include a complete reworking of C-wing, which includes the youth bunk rooms; renovation of the Earl Kelly Center for Christian Training "to enhance the worship services and other programs;" renovation of A-wing; and reworking of the beach, harbor, sea wall, and pier.

Cost of these renovations is estimated at up to \$3.25 million.

At Central Hills Retreat, the

project includes two lodge buildings to move campers from tents and to accommodate off-season groups; asphalt paving of roads, a multi-purpose activity room for indoor recreation during camping season and for a worship center; a maintenance building, and a marketing plan.

The work at Central Hills Retreat is estimated to cost up to \$1.75 million.

The building projects at the two state Baptist campgrounds will take place over the next two to three years.

Barri A. Shirley, MBCB business administrator, said financing through a loan agreement will be "sought and presented to the full board for its consideration, during the Oct. 26, 1998, board meeting."

Any loan would be amortized through the capital needs portion of the MBCB budget which is proposed at \$525,000 for 1999, Shirley said.

Church site purchase acquisition approved by the board include \$38,000 for 6.9 acres for Crossroads Church, Biloxi; \$10,000 toward a \$150,000 purchase of 5.1 acres for North Desoto Church, Southaven; and \$60,000 toward a \$100,000 purchase of existing facilities owned by the Church of the Open Door on one-third acre for Solid Rock Church, Greenville.

In other business, the board approved price increases of

approximately two percent for Gulfshore Assembly, and approved Central Hills Retreat's planned charges of \$12 per night for the newly-dedicated recreational vehicle park.

For more information on the 1999 state CP budget and the budgeting process, contact the

MBCB business office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

For additional information on the 1999 state CP budget, see article on page three of this issue.



ANNIVERSARY BIBLES — Bill Causey (left), retiring executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and his wife Charlotte (center) each receive new Bibles from MBCB president Kermit McGregor in honor of Bill Causey's 50-year ministry anniversary. Board members voted unanimously to recognize the Causeys during the regularly-scheduled meeting of the board on Aug. 25 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## GGBTS drops N.M. courses

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Golden Gate Seminary (GGBTS) has suspended the "on-site" teaching of master of divinity courses in the offices of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, announced Rodrick Durst, vice president for academic affairs at the seminary, citing the need for additional financing to keep teaching there.

GGBTS began teaching selected courses in New Mexico in 1995 at the request of Baptist Convention of New Mexico Executive Director Claude Cone, after Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth closed its extension site at the convention's office building in New Mexico.

Although Golden Gate has since taught nearly two dozen courses in Albuquerque, with the average of 10 students per class, seminary officials said they are unable to provide the students services which are standard at all the other places where Golden Gate carries out its educational ministry.

# Chaplain cites need for prison volunteers

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — After the failure of many types of prison rehabilitation programs, officials are turning to churches and religious organizations for help.

The need has never been greater for Christians to work as volunteers in prisons, but prison ministry is not for everyone.

Ella McCarroll, corrections chaplain in the women's unit at Plane State Jail, Dayton, Texas, led a session on prison ministry during the Black Church Leadership Conference Aug. 17-21 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Noting women and youth are the fastest-growing segments of the prison population, McCarroll said the United States is statistically a world leader in the percentage of its population behind bars.

In Texas, Harris County, in which Houston is located, leads all counties in the nation in percentage of its population in prison.

Approximately 20% of Americans are part of what she termed the prison or criminal justice marketplace — offenders, families of offenders, victims and their families and criminal justice employees.

"If your mentality is that offenders are just convicts, God can't use you in prison ministry," McCarroll said. "If you have the desire to do it and are willing to be equipped, God can use you."

"Some volunteers come to minister out of their woundedness rather than their giftedness," she said, warning, "This is debilitating rather than transforming."

McCarroll cited a need for churches and potential volunteers to understand prison ministry, at its best, is far more than just going to a facility occasionally to hold a worship service. It may include:

- teaching discipleship classes such as those making up the "Life-Changing Academy" in Texas prisons — including such discipleship resources as "Making Peace with Your Past," "Search for Significance," "Experiencing God," "Untangling Relationships" and "Survival Kit for New Christians."

All are produced by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- conducting one-on-one mentoring where a Christian meets no more than twice a month with a carefully selected offender who wants to improve his/her chances for making it on the outside.

- pen-pal ministry. "Offenders love to receive mail," McCarroll said, noting people must avoid getting too personal. "Don't talk about your personal life. Don't make promises about help after they get out. Never write from your home address. Write from a post office box or from the church."

McCarroll said churches need to expand their thinking about criminal justice ministry to include not only offenders, but also their families, victims of crimes and professionals employed in the criminal justice system.

Ministry to victims and their families may be a good place to begin a church ministry, she said.

Among families of offenders, there is a sense in which "the children are incarcerated at home when their parents are in prison," she said. Also, an increasing fact of prison life is several family members such as spouses or a mother and daughter serving terms at the same time.

Staff members, who work in a highly stressful atmosphere, often are overlooked for ministry. She urged churches to consider special recognitions for correctional

officers in the community.

To those considering some form of criminal justice ministry, McCarroll suggested eight actions:

- Assess the need.
- Find others already involved and learn from them.
- Evaluate the need for ministry to families of offenders.
- Pray about God's call.
- Communicate with your pastor about God's call.
- Explore ministry possibilities. Start small.
- Train for ministry. Most states require some type of training.
- Recognize criminal justice ministry can open access to meeting the needs of many people.

To explore the options for ministry at a particular facility, McCarroll suggested starting with the chaplain, if there is one, and also scheduling a meeting with the warden.

Through training and experience, she said volunteers will see their stereotypes of offenders changed.

"Offenders are likable," she said. "That makes you vulnerable. Some are

manipulative. Some are real."

She cautioned against high expectations about success. "Some will not be reached. Some are not ready."

Behavior with offenders must be "fair, firm and consistent. If you can't say no, you don't belong in prison ministry," McCarroll said. "If you have to be liked, you're in trouble."

Most important, she urged, "Know who you are. My philosophy is you never do anything for an offender that an offender can do for himself. Half of the work is knowing who you are."

More than 1,100 persons attended the Black Church Leadership Conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Christian Resources, North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and Annuity Board.

For more information on prison ministries in Mississippi, contact the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Analysis: FAITH church growth idea marries evangelism, Sunday School

By Jim Butler, Pastor  
Trinity Church, Southaven

Final in a two-part series

Everyone is looking for a secret formula for church growth. Some say the key to a church growing is having a praise oriented worship. Others say it is bound up in having a beautiful building at a prime location. A few believe churches can only grow if the community is growing.

We buy books, tapes, and attend countless seminars all telling us how to reach people for Christ and grow our church.

The early church knew nothing about marketing, demographics, advertising, or design build. Those early believers only knew how to do one thing — share their faith with those who did not know Jesus.

We now have come up with a new plan to do the same old thing: share our FAITH with others.

FAITH is similar to other formal gospel presentations, yet it is radically different in that it marries its approach to Sunday School.

The baptism rate of those led to Christ by these other approaches is less than 20%. The FAITH baptism rate has proven to be over 85%, making this plan of witnessing the most effective ever devised.

FAITH teams not only make weekly visits in the homes of unchurched prospects, they make Sunday School ministry visits. Teams are made up of people from the same Sunday School class or age group.

When visiting prospects, they visit people of their same age. If a person is saved or enrolled in Sunday School, they would be in the class of someone from that FAITH team.

As a new convert prays to receive Christ, they are also asked to enroll in Sunday School. Even if a person does not pray to receive Christ, the team tries to enroll them in their Sunday School class.

Studies have shown that one out of every three lost people who attend Sunday School will be saved within 12 months, so getting them involved in a Sunday School class is vitally important.

FAITH gives lay people the tools they need to share Christ with the unchurched. Experience has proven that once a person feels confident in sharing their faith, they develop an excitement about witnessing.

Churches that focus on reaching, enrolling, and growing new Christians have an atmosphere that draws people like a magnet.

Trinity Church is one of the 28 "originator churches" in our SBC. They will be the first to host a national FAITH Training Clinic on Oct. 12-15.

The cost for this clinic is \$325 for the pastor and \$125 for each additional person from his church. These fees cover a FAITH manual; a book written by Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Florida, and founder of the FAITH concept; and all meals while at the clinic.

Pastors will also receive a Power Point computer graphic program with all the FAITH teaching material on it, a professional teaching video, color overhead cells, and all the extra materials needed to lead a FAITH cycle in the local church.

For a church to attend the FAITH Training Clinic the pastor must be present since he is the key to any successful evangelism effort.

If your church would like to be trained in FAITH Sunday School Evangelism, you must contact Al Riddley at Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234.

If you would like more information about FAITH or the Training Clinic at Trinity Church, call Jim Butler, pastor, or Brett Burleson, minister of evangelism, at Trinity Church in Southaven at (601) 349-3333.

Space is limited and slots are being filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

FAITH is your opportunity to stop just wishing your church would grow. Now you can have a simple tool to use in touching your community with the message of Christ.

Your baptisms could double, triple, or more, if you just had FAITH.

## Colo. church seeks staffer

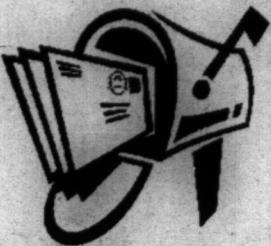
First Church, Bayfield, Colo., is seeking a full-time volunteer youth/music leader, according to the Partnership Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Located among six middle schools and three high schools, the job represents a great opportunity to reach youth, said partnership coordinator Bill Hardy.

The church will provide housing and for some expenses, but other funding will be needed.

Contact pastor Timothy D. Sandy at P. O. Box 50, Bayfield, Co 81122, or call (970) 884-9308.

For more information on this and other partnership mission opportunities, contact Hardy at the Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*

## Mont Rose plans 125th

Mont Rose Church, Quitman, Clarke Association, will celebrate its 125th anniversary as a church on Sept. 6. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with Grady Crowell, director of missions, as guest speaker. Also participating in the program will be D. E. Wainwright, former pastor, and Terry Goodman, former member. Holmes Carlisle, with the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, will present a certificate to the church, which was founded on Aug. 30, 1873. Lunch will be provided at the church. For further information call (601) 644-3598. Leland Goodman is pastor.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Bethel Church of Pearl River Association** honored two of its sons in the ministry in a special recognition service for 50 years of licensed ministry. Robert J. Sanderson was licensed by Bethel Church on Aug. 1, 1948 and Bennie H. Wright in Sept. of 1948. Through the years these men have each served as pastor, with Sanderson now serving as director of missions for Newton and Scott Counties. Each man was presented a plaque expressing appreciation for his ministry. Pictured are Richard Bailey, pastor, presenting a plaque to Wright and Sanderson.

### YOUTH REJUVENATED

**Editor:**

The article, "Youth needs spotlighted at Gulfshore weeks" by Jamie Vickers in The Baptist Record, Aug. 13, summed up the thoughts that have been so apparent since our youth returned from Gulfshore.

On June 18, 1998, 11 youth along with Larry Wicker, pastor, and Milinda Turner, youth leader, from Paris Church, Paris, traveled to Gulfshore for a youth conference ending June 22. My wife and I traveled by automobile.

On the return trip I saw that a drastic change had occurred in all who had attended the conference — so much of a change that I was wishing that I had attended also. They had met Jesus afresh and anew and he had changed their lives.

Since returning, these young people have given testimonies, started a visitation program (still going strong) in which a 77-year-old woman was led to the Lord and subsequently passed from this life Aug. 19.

They organized and held a Vacation Bible School and in general have become model Christians that most of us adults need to be.

They related that they did

not know what to expect at Gulfshore Assembly and that there was so much bickering and hostilities between them that the youth leader was ready to come home even before the conference started.

Then they "met Jesus." Two were saved and the rest were rejuvenated.

Charles F. Sitzlar  
Water Valley

### INTERNET IS USEFUL

**Editor:**

This letter is in response to your recent articles concerning the use of the Internet.

We understand the potential

**Members of the Baptist Student Union (BSU)** at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia teamed with BSU members from community colleges in the Seattle area on a July 9-22 mission trip to Guyana in South America. Among those making the trip were (from left) Angela Ormon, Hickory Flat; Ildi Sztonak, Seattle; Scott Haley, Holly Springs; Allison Ormon, Hickory Flat; Matt Olson, Chris Finley, Jacque Tingvall, and Dan Hopp, all of Seattle; Roxie Smith, Seattle, Seattle BSU director; and Frank Porter Senatobia, Northwest BSU director. (Photo courtesy of Northwest BSU)

danger of pornography and other ills associated with it, but let's not throw the baby out with the bath water.

We have been online for over six years and only once did we accidentally go to a site that was pornographic — less often than walking into a local 7-11 store!

It is something one must choose to do if one sees it with any regularity. Parents do need to monitor children in its use,

just as they don't let their children walk unescorted in some areas of Jackson.

The wealth of study aids, church sites, interfaith witness materials, our own BSSB online store and many other resources make the Internet a valuable tool for Southern Baptists in reaching their world, both real and virtual for Christ.

Chester Carlisle, pastor  
Ethel Church, Ethel

## STAFF CHANGES

**Michael L. Davis**, a native of Brookhaven, has been called as associate pastor, education/administration by Grace Memorial Church, Slidell, La. He is a graduate of William Carey College and



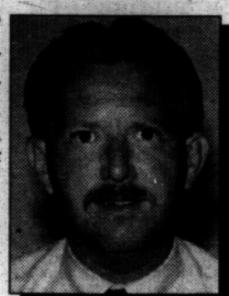
Davis

Memphis Theological Seminary. Davis served several churches in Mississippi and has served in Mobile, Ala., for the past nine years.

**Ingomar Church**, New Albany, has called Clyde Lee Pound as pastor effective Aug. 16. A native of Pontotoc, Pound received his education at Itawamba Jr. College, William Carey College, Baptist Bible Inst., Graceville, Fla., and New Orleans Seminary.

Gregg Thomas is pastor.

**Holcomb Church**, Holcomb, has called Jeff Byars as minister of music and youth. Byars began serving July 26.



Byars

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Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Center Ridge**, Yazoo City: Sept. 6-10; regular times on Sunday; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Tom Cox, Arkansas, evangelist; Kaye Cox, Arkansas, music; Howard Collier, pastor.

**Centreville, Centreville**: Sept. 12-13; Saturday, youth pizza night, 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. service; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and noon

meal; Donald Whitehead, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Ephraim's Kin, Baton Rouge, La., musicians; John Brashier, pastor; Duane Roth, minister of music; and Dewayne Wallace, youth minister.

### EXCITING CAREER IN CHRISTIAN RETAILING

Excellent salary and benefit package available. Relocation will be required to one of over 70 bookstores. Qualifications include: four-year college degree or comparable business management experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future, and an active role in a Southern Baptist Church.

**Send resume to:**  
RETAIL STORE OPERATIONS DEPT.  
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127 NINTH AVENUE, NORTH  
MSN 165  
NASHVILLE, TN 37234-0165  
OR FAX TO (615) 251-3622

**BAPTIST BOOK STORES**  
**LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN STORES**

owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step. Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622 BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

What I tell you in the dark speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 3, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## KINGDOM MINISTRY CONFERENCE

*"Building Relationships for Sharing Christ"*

First Baptist Church, Madison  
September 24, 1998, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### TRAINING WORKSHOPS

#### *The Kingdom Agenda*

Terry Martinez, minister of education, FBC, Madison



DAVID EDWARDS

Author of

*Destination: Principles for Making Life's Journey Count*

#### *Destination*

Ronnie Falvey, young adult minister, FBC, Jackson

#### *Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ*

Don Lum, youth consultant, Evangelism Dept., MBCB

#### *Experiencing God*

Sue Dockery

#### *The Mind of Christ*

Don Hicks, preschool/children's consultant, Discipleship & Family Ministry, MBCB

#### *Life in the Spirit*

Wayne Edwards, director of missions, Lauderdale Baptist Association

#### *MasterLife*

Rick Mitchell, pastor, FBC, Richton



MIKE ROGERS

Author of

*The Kingdom Agenda: Experiencing God in the Workplace*



CHARLES ROESEL

Author of

*Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ: Ministry Evangelism in Today's New Testament Church*

Sponsored by: Lifeway, Nashville/MBCB, Jackson  
To register or for more information call 615-251-5624

## SEE YOU AT THE POLE '98

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 a.m.

Twenty-five thousand Mississippi teenagers are expected to pray on their campuses before school on September 16, observing the eighth annual **See You At The Pole** national day of student prayer.

Promotional materials to help plan and promote **See You At The Pole** are available by calling (817) 447-7526.



Reports should be made immediately following your event by calling Don Lum at the MBCB at 601-968-3800, or toll free at 1-800-748-1651.



Mississippi College

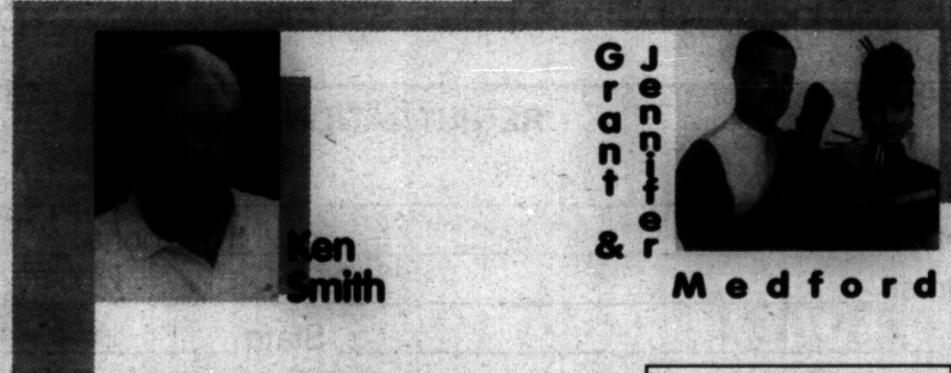
December 28-29, 1998

Registration begins noon, 28th  
Conference concludes 3 p.m., 29th

Youth  
Evangelism  
Conference  
**1998**



Mike Harland



Ken Smith  
Grant & Medford

Sponsored by the  
Evangelism Department  
S.A. Adkins, Director  
Don Lum, Youth Consultant  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

A Ministry of your Cooperative Program

For more details, ask your  
youth minister or contact the  
Evangelism Department,  
MBCB at 1-800-748-1651  
or 968-3800



## GA Mother/Daughter Overnight (Grades 1-6)

Camp Garaywa, October 23 - 24

Begins Friday at 5 p.m. and ends 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Registration Deadline: October 15

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daughter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ In case of emergency contact/phone # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$23 x # (of persons) \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total)

**Make checks payable to MBCB (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)**

**Send to: WMU - GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530**



## '99 Senior Adult Retreats at Gulfshore

*"The Joyful Heart of a Senior"*

### Senior Adult Retreat I

**May 17-19**



Preacher:  
Garland McKee  
Clinton

### Senior Adult Retreat II

**May 20-22**



Choir:  
FBC, Laurel

Preacher:  
Cliff Perkins  
Clinton

### Senior Adult Retreat III

**May 24-28**



Choir:  
North Oxford BG  
Oxford

Preacher:  
C. Ferris Jordan  
Baton Rouge, La.

## Women on Mission Celebration

### •Worship and Inspiration • Small Group Interests Sessions

Cost: \$50 lodging and three meals, \$35 meals only, \$20 no meals or lodging

### REGISTRATION FORM

Church/Assn. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Women \_\_\_\_\_ x cost per person \_\_\_\_\_ =

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Full refunds until August 18*

*(no cancellations by phone)*

*Make checks payable to:*

*Gulfshore Baptist Assembly*

**Mail to: WMU Conference**

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**

**100 First Street**

**Pass Christian, MS 39571**



Missionary Speaker  
**Gloria Thurman**  
Bangladesh



Music  
**Steve and Becky Carver**  
One Way Ministries  
Starkville



**October 13**  
FBC, Pearl  
FBC, Greenwood

**October 15**  
Temple BC,  
Hattiesburg

**October 20**  
Calvary BC, Tupelo  

---

7 p.m.

For more information,  
contact the Church  
Music Dept., MBCB  
1-601-968-3800 or  
1-800-748-1651

#### Guidelines

1. Each participating quartet and/or ensemble must be sponsored by a local Southern Baptist Church. The members of the participating group/s must be active in the church's music ministry.
2. No church may sponsor more than one quartet with the same voicing and no more than two groups from the same church.
3. No quartet shall contain more than one active church staff member.
4. Each quartet and ensemble will be allowed six minutes.
5. Accompaniment for each quartet or ensemble will be limited to piano and/or organ. You will need to provide your own accompanist if possible! If you cannot, please contact the Church Music Department.
6. Quartets which sing regularly for fees are considered to be professional quartets for this event and are, therefore, ineligible to participate.
7. Two copies of each selection must be provided for the adjudicators. Photocopies will not be accepted unless permission from the publisher has been granted.
8. Only college students and adults are eligible to participate.
9. A quartet may consist of four members of the following: SATB, TTBB, SSAA, or any other combination of four individuals.
10. An ensemble may consist of any combination of voices of not less than five (5) or more than sixteen (16) individuals.

## All Lads, Crusaders, & Challengers

Come hang out with  
the guys... at R.A. Day



### Mississippi College

Grades 1-12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$4 per person  
Bring your own sack lunch and drink.



**Saturday, October 3**

#### R.A. DAY REGISTRATION - DEADLINE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

(one form per church please)

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON SENDING IN FORM \_\_\_\_\_

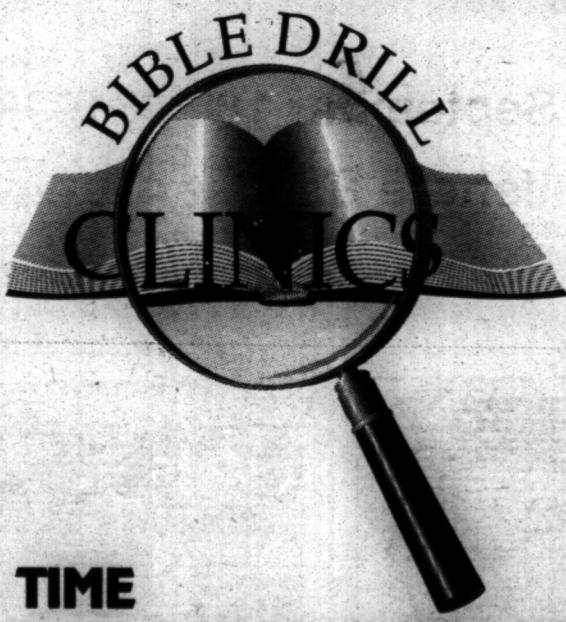
PHONE NO. (During the Day) \_\_\_\_\_

NO. PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

(Make checks payable to "Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.")

MAIL TO      R. A. Day  
Brotherhood Department  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

*A Ministry of the Cooperative Program*



## Six Bible Drills in September

The Discipleship and Family Ministry Department has scheduled Bible Drill clinics in six locations on September 14, 15, 17, 1998. The clinics will give detailed help for beginning and leading Bible Drill in your local church. Clinics are for both Children and Youth Bible Drill leaders, judges and callers.

The list below will show the date, locations and leader for each clinic. The leaders will be Don Hicks, the preschool/children consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Wes Pegues, the youth consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Call Wes Pegues or Don Hicks at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800 if you have any questions.

#### TIME

7-9 p.m. Monday, September 14 . . . . .  
7-9 p.m. Monday . . . . .  
7-9 p.m. Tuesday, September 15 . . . . .  
7-9 p.m. Tuesday . . . . .  
7-9 p.m. Thursday, September 17 . . . . .  
7-9 p.m. Thursday . . . . .

#### LOCATION

Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo . . . . .	Wes Pegues
Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson . . . . .	Don Hicks
FBC, Batesville . . . . .	Wes Pegues
38th Avenue BC, Hattiesburg . . . . .	Don Hicks
Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian . . . . .	Wes Pegues
FBC, Gulfport . . . . .	Don Hicks

#### LEADER

## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

### A Helpful Thought in Difficult Times

"I know not by what methods rare. But this I know - God answers prayer.  
I know not when He sends the word that tells us fervent prayer is heard.  
I know it cometh - soon or late. Therefore we need to pray and wait.  
I know not if the blessing sought will come in just the way I thought.  
I leave my prayers with Him alone, whose will is wiser than my own."

Advancement Day in the Sunday School (SS Emphasis). Pray that promotion day will revitalize Sunday Schools in all our churches and that many more people will be enrolled in Bible Study each week.

Labor Day. James Bean is church planter pastor of Warsaw Baptist Mission in Indiana. Pray for a number in the church who are ill. Pray for additional people, especially young couples with children, to become involved in the church. Pray that lost people will be saved and that Christians will grow closer to the Lord.

For Sunday School Launch Day (SS Emphasis). Missionary Barbara Akins asks you to pray that three people who regularly attend Sunday services at Beppu Mission, Japan, will accept Christ and be baptized.

For Bible Drill Clinics; Calvary BC, Tupelo/Hillcrest BC, Jackson; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry. This is wonderful training and it makes lasting impressions for all those who participate.

Fifteen MKs (missionary kids) whose parents serve in Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay finished their high school education this year. As they begin their college studies, ask God to help them adjust to life in the United States and to help their parents and younger siblings to adjust to their absence.

For Bible Drill Clinics, FBC, Batesville/38th Ave. BC, Hattiesburg; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry. Eldon Blount, owner of Blount's Supermarket, Tupelo, MS, will no longer sell beer. Pray that Christians will support him in this decision and that his business will even increase because of his courage.

Several missionary families are or soon will be living with Uzbek families in order to better learn the language and culture. Each family has small children, so it is often difficult to live like that. Ask the Father to give each family the grace to live in such "close quarters" and pray that their daily lives will be a testimony of the loving God whom they serve.

See You At the Pole (Evang. Emphasis). Pray for the thousands of students who voluntarily gather around the flag pole at their schools and pray. It is a growing testimony to non-Christians every year.

by Jeane Dixon

Barry Bonney, Ontario, Canada, is a regional church planter strategist. Pray for two new church plants and for three couples who recently arrived to start them. Don and Sharon Goforth are starting the work in Kingston and Rick and Donna Lamothe and Leon and Elva-Jean Brown are starting the one in Ottawa. Pray for them as they get settled.

For New Staff Day & DOM Update: Baptist Building; sponsored by Executive Office and Missions Extension and Associational Administration. For Bible Drill Clinics; FBC, Gulfport/Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry.

A teacher participating in a summer English program in China was asked by a student, "Teacher, do you mind if I ask you about Christianity?" The teacher was thrilled to know that in only a brief time, God had opened doors of opportunity for a meaningful witness. Pray for many opportunities for Christian teachers to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Pray that cell groups (home-based congregations) will be established as an outreach of International Baptist Church in Antwerp, Belgium. International Service Corps workers, Claude and Delma Jacks, are working with this church.

5

For Chaplains Seminar; Baptist Building; sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Administration. Pray as teams drill deep-bore wells in 100 Indonesian drought-stricken rural locations in order to provide clean water and the Water of Life to literally thousands of people.



## STATE HANDBELL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1998  
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison, Miss.

### A Gambling Conference Concerning Mississippi's Challenge

#### For All Church Leaders

September 21

First Baptist Church, Grenada

September 22

Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon

September 24

First Baptist Church Lyman, Gulfport

### Program Personalities

**John Eades**, Ph.D., graduate of the University of Alabama; outreach coordinator for a geriatric psychiatric program at Southern Tennessee Medical Center; 20-year veteran in field of addictions treatment; a certified compulsive gambling, alcohol and drug addictions therapist; and a recovering compulsive gambler

**Larry Garner**, director of church services, Metro Baptist Association

**Elizabeth Holmes**, consultant for family and women's issues, Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission

**Paul Jones**, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission

**Chuck Porcianu**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Louisville, and chairman, Christian Action Commission

### Afternoon Session

1:00 Mississippi's Future.....	Paul Jones
1:45 Plight of the Prodigal .....	John Eades
3:15 Tools...Tools...Tools .....	Elizabeth Holmes
4:30 Adjourn	

### Evening Session

6:15 Pathway to Recovery for the Prodigal .....	John Eades
7:45 Gambling: Destroyer of Our Faith .....	Chuck Porcianu
7:45 How to Win Against Gambling .....	Larry Garner

More  
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Risk



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HOUSE TOPS

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**One Life**, a musical ensemble from Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal, sang and gave testimonies at Oakland Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on Aug. 9. Pictured (from left) are Jessica Kee, Jessica Adams, Kim Grimsley, Kelli Grimsley, Paige Maxwell, Brandi Mixon, and Misty Kitchens.

**Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson**, will host The Southland Quartet in concert on Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. Members of this group, from Tippah County, are Marty Hurt, Paul Smith, Chris Weaver, and Casey Cappleman. For more information call the church office at 372-7812.

**Faith Church, Jackson**, will celebrate its first anniversary Sunday, Sept. 6. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:50 a.m. Greg Wolfe, pastor, will preach. After a covered dish luncheon, there will be a special praise service with Hubert Greer, pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Wesson. The celebration will take place at the Gulf Guaranty Conference Center located at 4785 I-55 North Frontage Road in Jackson.

**Centennial "98"** The Church of Christ, For All Ages will be held at Hopewell Church of Little Rock, Sept. 12-13. Old Fashion Day and fish fry will be held on Saturday. Special music will be held on Sunday by "One Way Ministries," former pastors, and former music directors. Jimmy McDill is pastor.

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**Strong Hope Church, Wesson**, held its WMU recognition service on Sunday evening, Aug. 9. Acteens, GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends (pictured, from left) are:

Acteens: Queen Regent Beth Ryan, Heather Morgan, Queens Maggie Morgan, Hayley Roberts, Mandi Elkins, and Amanda Jackson;

Queen Regent in Service Trish Ryan; Janie Jackson, leader; John Ryan, Dylan Berch, Katie McGee, Kaitlyn Savage, Jessica Jackson, Megan Berch, and Brooke Ryan, bearers.

Older GAs: Karla Brouillette, LeeAnn McLeod, Crystal Ryan, and Linda Elkins, leader; Amber Dice not pictured.

Younger GAs: Kelli Ryan, Corrie Bates, Amber Morgan, Stephanie Smith, Kristina Bates, and Lauren Brouillette; Ellen Morgan and Deborah Bell, leaders.

RAs: Bradley Middleton, Adam Williams, Micheal Middleton; 2nd row, Benton Bell, Clayton Bowlin, Justin Morgan; and Walter Bell, leader.

Mission Friends: Austin Levison, Gray Levison, John Ryan, Jessa Martin, Megan Berch, Ira-Rain Levison; 2nd row, Rebekkah McLeod, Georgia Bowlin, Dylan Berch, Jessica Jackson, Karen Middleton, Michelle Berch, and Fay Levison, leaders.



**Acteens of Lexie Church, Walthall County**, were among the 456 Mississippians to attend the National Acteen Convention in Louisville, Ky. Pictured (from left) are Amanda Hill, Sheila Conerly, Jennifer Conerly, Kamie Dillon, Ashley Rodriguez, Deborah Rodriguez, and Aaron Conerly.

**Lamar Association Seminary Extension Center** is offering the following classes this fall: Studies in Joshua, taught by Glenn Davis, will meet on Tuesday nights at 7 beginning on Sept. 8. The tuition will be \$46. The Bivocational Pastor, taught by Doug Benedict, will meet on

Thursday nights beginning on Sept 10. The tuition will be \$56. The classes will meet in the Lamar Baptist Building located on Hwy. 589 one mile south of Hwy. 98 west of Hattiesburg. Students may register through the third class meeting. For further information call Davis at (601) 758-4738 or 758-4589.



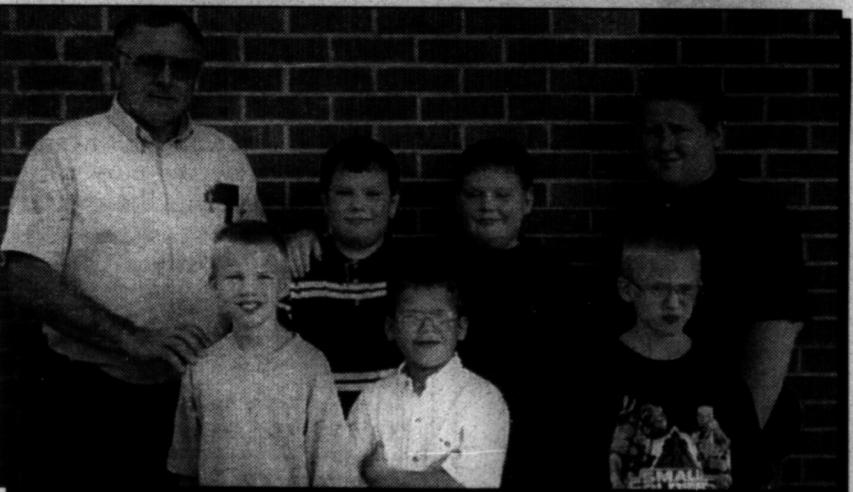
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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



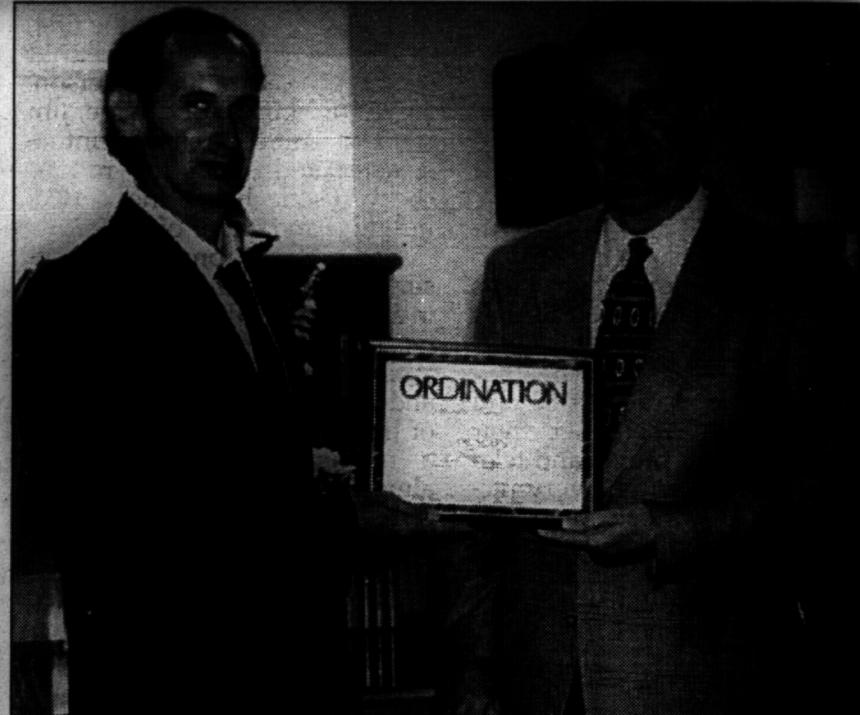
New Fellowship Church deacon ordination

### Revival results

**New Hope, Foxworth:** Aug. 9-14; 18 professions of faith. James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Kenny Adams, Tylertown, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Deacon ordination service was held at New Fellowship Church, Jasper Association, on May 17. The newly elected deacons are Chad Jones and James Williams. Their fathers, Wayne Jones and George Williams also serve as deacons. Deacons (pictured) are Lamar Thorne; George Williams; James Williams; Chris Cochran, ministry by Wesson Church, Wesson, on pastor; Chad Jones; July 5. She is presently attending William Wayne Jones; and H. P. Carey College pursuing her degree in Williams. Not pictured is youth ministry and education. Pictured with Loper is Mike Carr, pastor.

**Nikki Anne Loper** was licensed to the ministry by Wesson Church, Wesson, on July 5. She is presently attending William Wayne Jones; and H. P. Carey College pursuing her degree in Williams. Not pictured is youth ministry and education. Pictured with Loper is Mike Carr, pastor.



Kenneth Purvis, left, was ordained as deacon by Concord Church, Rankin Association, on Aug. 16. Pictured with Purvis is Tommy May, pastor.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Blue Mountain College (BMC) Department of Music will present Edward Ludlow in a faculty organ recital on Sept. 8

in Lowrey Memorial Church. Ludlow is associate professor of organ and church music at BMC and is also music director of the First United Methodist Church in Ripley. He is assisted by his wife Anita for the "20th century organ sampler" which begins at 8 p.m. A native of Pontotoc, Anita Ludlow is music director of the Ripley Presbyterian Church.

### First, Laurel, sets Christian Life Conference

Christian Life Conference on Worship will be held at First Church, Laurel, on Sept. 13-16. Times are 6-7:30 p.m. nightly and morning Bible study, Mon.-Wed., from 10-11:30 a.m. Randall Turner is pastor of First Church.

The conference will be led by worship leaders Ron and Patricia Owens who are currently dividing their time between the North American Mission Board and the

International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. They minister together through the spoken word and music.

Patricia Owens is a native of Jackson, and Ron Owens was born in Canada.

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For more information call Jimmy Little, minister of music of First Church, at (601) 649-5710.



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**HAMMOND, LOUISIANA** — Woodland Park Baptist Church in need of a Minister of Music — Full-time, Part-time or Interim. Send resume to Woodland Park Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, PO Box 847, Hammond, La. 70404

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# Rogers, Young models still relevant in '98

By Bill Webb, Editor  
*Missouri Word and Way*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — When actors Roy Rogers and Robert Young died in July, it seemed like the world actually lost three men: a "straight-shooting" cowboy, a father who almost always knew what was best, and a doctor who cared as much about his patients' personal problems as their health.

Roy and Bob died at 86 and 91, respectively. Neither their names nor their movie and television exploits will be very recognizable to those who are under 40 years old. But for most of the rest of us, these deaths remind us how the entertainment industry has changed.

Rogers was the "king of the cowboys" both in the movies and on television. The term "straight-shooter" applied foremost to his character's personal integrity, secondarily to his prowess with a six-gun. A sidearm was a defensive weapon for him. He never killed a bad guy, but often shot the gun out of the hands of scoundrels. Roy was faithful to his wife and co-star, Dale Evans, and kind to his golden palomino, Trigger, and his dog, Bullet. He was wholesomeness personified.

Robert Young is best known

for a pair of TV series. In the first, "Father Knows Best," he played a suburban father, Jim Anderson. Never bringing work home, Jim shed his suit coat, slipped into a sweater and spent the rest of each episode being the perfect husband and father of three.

Later, Young brought a very similar character to TV audiences in a show named after his character, a physician named Marcus Welby. Dr. Welby was an older and perhaps even wiser version of Jim Anderson, outstanding as a medical diagnostician and almost a mind reader when it came to figuring out what was really bothering his patients. Above all, he was a doctor who sincerely cared for those entrusted to his care. Unlike Jim Anderson, Marcus Welby stayed late at the hospital helping his beloved patients. He was something of a benevolent workaholic.

No doubt, these actors had their foibles. Both played near-perfect characters. We don't know all the details of their personal lives. Rogers often gave his Christian testimony, sometimes at Billy Graham crusades. The man who played Jim Anderson and Marcus Welby suffered from depression and alcoholism, and he attempted suicide. TV isn't real life, after all.

Admittedly, the first priority

of producers of these shows was to succeed in entertaining. That's the same goal for producers and actors today. But the differences are severe.

Shock factor wasn't a readily used technique in television's developing years. Profanity and sexual innuendo certainly existed in society. Indeed, they were more pervasive than some would like to admit. People abused alcohol and even did drugs. But for the most part, television was an escape from some of those vices we witnessed in real life. TV bent over backward not to be suggestive, even to the point of skewing reality. For instance, my memory is that Jim and Margaret Anderson, like most happily married sitcom parents of the day, slept in separate beds.

TV programming has gone a different direction these days. Most of us would strain to identify with contemporary sitcoms. These days, TV and film still provide an escape, but too often it is an escape to the darker side of modern-day society — excessive profanity, exces-

sive violence, excessive sexual activity, excessive everything.

Perhaps westerns have gone the way of the dinosaur. But one might wonder how updated versions of "Father Knows Best" and "Marcus Welby, M.D." might fare today. To be realistic, "Father" might not always know how to handle every situation in the 1998 version, but he could always do his best. And, in a contemporary rendition, patients might chew out Dr. Welby once in a while for meddling in their personal lives. But at least audiences would be reminded that it is all right to move beyond surface acquaintances and try to develop meaningful, caring relationships.

The deaths of Roy Rogers and Robert Young should be timely reminders. The entertainment empire that seems to influence our society and our families so profoundly might do well to realize its finest years have come and gone. Time is ripe for a healthy change. That won't happen, of course, unless consumers who care are willing to send a message.

## HOECOMINGS

**Friendship, Charleston:** Sept. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; Terry Tribble, Rome, evangelist; Wyomman Reeves and Rick Malory, music; J. G. Thomas, pastor.

**First, Pascagoula:** building dedication; Sept. 13; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Bill Causey and Graham Smith, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, platform guests; Rex Yancey, dedication message.

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## New Sunday School writers named

The Baptist Record has named new Sunday School writers for the three Lifeway Christian Resources curriculum lines, starting with the Sept.-Nov. 1998 quarter.

Michael D. Johnson, professor in the Christian Studies at Mississippi College in Clinton, will write for the Life and Work series. Johnson holds education degrees from the University of Kentucky and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He has served as a minister of education, a seminary and denominational administrator, and is a frequent conference leader and preacher.

Johnson is currently the president-elect for the Mississippi



Baptist Religious Education Association.

Johnson and his wife Terri, a Jackson Public Schools administrator, are members of First Church, Clinton and are the parents of three teenagers.

Walter Blackman, Jr., pastor of First Church, Marion, will write for the Explore the Bible series.

He is an experienced Sunday School curriculum writer, having written for the "Pursuits, Life and Work" series since 1995.

A native of Greenville, S.C., Blackman is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

He currently serves as a

trustee on the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He and his wife Suzanne have four children.

Writing for the Family Bible series is Greg Bowers, pastor of First Church, Indianola.

A Memphis native, Bowers is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

He has pastored churches in Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee, where he also served as the first vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference.

Bowers and his wife Donna have two children.



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## LIFE AND WORK

### Power to save

Ephesians 2:1-10

**By Michael Johnson**

Most Germans are very familiar with two specific dates in their recent history: August 12, 1961 and November 9, 1989. On the first date the Berlin wall — twenty-six miles of concrete blocks, stacked ten feet high — cut through the heart of Berlin, Germans, and the world. For nearly three decades the Berlin Wall had separated parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors. Then, on November 9, 1989, East Germany officially adopted a policy of unrestricted emigration and The Wall, a once impregnable barrier of separation, instantly became obsolete and powerless.

This Sunday we begin a four week study in Ephesians and

begin with chapter two as we examine the power of God. This particular passage reminds us that

walls of separation can only be removed by God's saving power.

**Absence of power.** We are first struck with the similarity of the people in Paul's day and the people today. For eons mankind has been on a quest to discover the meaning to life. Madison Avenue promises satisfaction through material possession. Fortune 500 companies seem to suggest that the good life can be acquired through mergers and acquisitions; playing 'king of the mountain' where there can only be one winner! Others have sought quick solutions by visiting the river boat casinos looking for



Johnson

the big payoff; or moving through a series of relationships looking for that 'perfect' mate. The shortcomings of these 'solutions' become glaring when we pause to reflect on the evil that plagues society and the problems we face as thousands seek fulfillment through alcohol, drugs, and violence.

As Paul points out in 2:1-3 this is the human predicament. People will always be seeking fulfillment in all the wrong places until we come to the realization that the answers to life's ultimate questions will only be found through a meaningful relationship with God through Christ.

**Availability of power.** We all stand guilty of chasing after these false gods and their promises of contentment. Ironically, instead of these gods offering solutions, we discover that we are only further separated from the true answer. Yet Paul reminds us that while we

certainly deserve punishment for our idolatry he provides an insight to the heart of God which is absolutely overwhelming! Mercy, grace and love are the qualities of God which are freely bestowed on all who access them. That love, however, is tempered with justice. Because of our brokenness, God became incarnate and did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Paul is very clear in 2:4-10 that in Christ, God has not only removed every obstacle that separates one group of people from another but he has also removed every obstacle which separates us from him! This is unmerited mercy. This is amazing grace. This is endless love.

**Application of power.** Walls still surround us, even when we seek to follow God. Some walls we can see; others are only discovered when we bump into them. Still other walls keep those who are not like us on the outside. Some barriers have been destroyed only to be rebuilt by those who

fear the openness that the lack of walls bring.

Yet, walls have a way of coming down. Just as the spirit of freedom brought down the physical walls which separated a people and a nation, only the freedom offered by Christ from our sins will bring down the walls in our own life. Walls do not go up overnight; likewise it takes time to remove the barriers which have kept us from meaningful relationships with God and others. The more we will allow Christ to take control of our all aspects of our lives; the less problem we will have with walls.

E. Stanley Jones tells about an African, who after he was converted, changed his name to 'After'. He explained that everything important in his life happened after he met Jesus Christ. How then shall we be known?

*Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### God hears his people's cries

Exodus 1:8-11; 2:23-25; 3:7-10

**By Walter M. Blackman**

Human suffering is one of the greatest challenges anyone faces. Whether it is the suffering of the Holocaust of WWII, or the suffering of individuals who have been abused because of their religious, political, or racial makeup, the questions are asked, "Why?" "Where is God?" "Why does God allow this?"

**Oppression of God's people (1:8-11).** Joseph saved the Egyptians from starvation. However, a new king came into power who did not remember Joseph or what he had done for Egypt. Historical records reveal a drastic change in Egyptian governments about the time of

Joseph and from this political upheaval came a king who feared the growing size and threat of the people of Israel.

Many Christians today are persecuted in various parts of the world, giving up their lives in many cases for the sake of the Gospel. Sometimes we might be mistreated for not going with the crowd or taking a stand on an important moral issue. Jesus himself told his followers that in the world, they would have tribulation, but he also told them to be encouraged — he had overcome the world (John 16:33).

**God's attention to his people (2:23-25).** During the oppression of God's people, a family from



Blackman

the house of Levi gave birth to a son. Since all Hebrew sons were to be killed, the parents of the son placed him into a small water-tight basket and placed him into the river. An Egyptian princess took the boy out of the river, called him Moses, and raised him in Pharaoh's house.

Sometime later, Moses learned of his Hebrew ancestry. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave and Moses killed him. Moses fled to the land of Midian, married, and became a shepherd.

The Egyptian king who enslaved the Hebrews died and yet the slavery continued. The depth of the suffering of the children of Israel can be understood by the word "sighed" which means groaning. The people cried out and their cry was heard by God.

God listens and responds to

our cries and he continues to act out of the same love that was expressed through Jesus Christ and his willingness to die on the cross for our sins. Look at God's response to the oppression of his people; God heard...God remembered...God saw...and God took notice of them. He is an active God who involves himself in the lives of his people.

**God's intervention for his people (3:7-10).** Moses saw a burning bush and heard the voice of God saying he had seen the affliction of his people. The phrase "my people" speaks of the special covenant relationship.

Sometimes we do not understand why God allows his people to suffer. Whether it is persecution, a long fight with cancer, or the loss of a child, all suffering is difficult to understand and it is especially difficult when God seems to be silent or removed from our cries.

In his timing and wisdom,

God revealed to Moses his plan to deliver his people and bring them to the land of Canaan. The land was described as flowing with milk and honey. In short, the land was large and fertile enough to provide for his people to live. God's plan for his people was for them to prosper, not to be enslaved.

The climax of God's conversation was the call to Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. God's intervention on behalf of his people usually involves using other people who willingly and obediently carry out his will.

When God makes us aware of his work and his concern for other people, it may mean he is calling us to perform some ministry. When we share Jesus with others, we share the love and concern of God for their lives and reveal to them the means of their deliverance.

*Blackman is pastor of First Church, Marion.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### The problem of sin

Genesis 3:1-13

**By Greg Bowers**

Our world is in the midst of a moral decline which is taking a toll upon our society and causing many analysts and commentators to ask hard questions about what is happening and why.

Genesis 3 explains why humanity is like it is. Genesis 3 indicates how sin entered into the world and what sin does to those who practice it.

**Sin begins with questions.** In verse 1, Satan asks the first recorded question "Did God really say...?" Satan tells Eve that God really didn't mean what he said when he placed a prohibition against the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Every attack on the Bible and

every question about Biblical authority and integrity is a repetition of Satan's question.

**Sin's appeal.** In verse 5, Satan promises increased enlightenment for Eve. He tries to get her to believe that God is holding back on her, denying her what she deserves. Part of the appeal of many cults is that they promise greater spiritual insight for those who join.

**Sin's appearance.** According to verse 6, the fruit was desirable. Sin rarely appears in all of its ugliness. Notice also in verse 6 that Eve gave the fruit to Adam and that he willingly ate it. He and Eve share the blame equally.

**Sin produces shame.**



Bowers

Genesis 2:25 indicates that both Adam and Eve were naked and felt no shame. When they fell to the temptations of the devil, they felt shame for the first time in their lives. They had broken God's commandments and were guilty. They lost their innocence.

**Sin tries to cover.** Verse 7b states that Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves out of fig leaves. Imagine the audacity of trying to hide their disobedience from the very God who knew even the number of hairs on their heads! Today, some people attempt to sew together fig leaves of moral reformation and religious ritual. These never work. Only the blood of Christ is sufficient to cover our sins.

**Sin hides from God.** God desires intimate fellowship with his own. In verse 8, he walks in the garden, seeking companion-

ship. They attempt to hide from him, like children hiding in fearful shame from their father.

**Sin produces fear.** Rather than responding in anger, God calmly calls them. Adam answers in verse 10. He feared the presence of God in the garden. In verse 11, God asks two rhetorical questions to try and get them to confess their sin to him. They refuse.

**Sin tries to blame.** In verse 12, Adam blames God first for his disobedience — "the woman YOU put here with me." Remember that James 1 tells us that we cannot blame God when we fall to temptation. Adam also blames Eve and tries to downplay the significance of the disobedience — "she gave me fruit...and I ate it." In verse 13, Eve blames the serpent. Satan is a master of deception, but he cannot make us do anything.

**Sin carries consequences.** In verses 14-24, God announces his punishment. The serpent is con-

demned to humiliation, i.e. which will cause his ultimate defeat by Eve's offspring. (This is the first prophecy of the coming Messiah.) Eve is condemned to painful labor which will put her into conflict with her husband. Adam is condemned to a lifetime of backbreaking struggle with the soil which will eventually reclaim him.

**God is merciful.** In verse 21, God provides animal skins to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness. This is a foreshadowing of Christ's death. His blood covers the shame of our sins. In verse 24, God provides a guardian angel to prevent them from returning to the Garden and eating of the tree of life.

It was a tree that brought man's downfall. It was a tree that brought salvation. Praise God that there is forgiveness of sin through confession, repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

*Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.*

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### JUNE MEMORIALS CORRECTION

L.S. Dyess  
Thomas R. Jones  
Harold Noe  
Rebecca Shelton  
Lyn Vallas  
Leroy Dyess  
Charles Ray Lee and family

### JUNE 1-30, 1998 MEMORIALS

Mrs. Lillie Smith  
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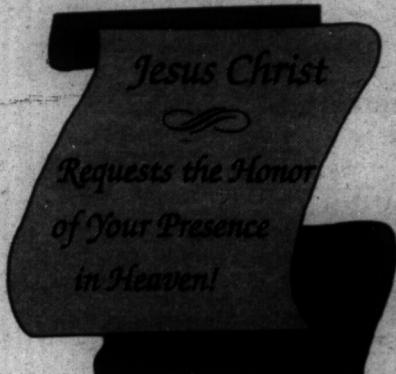
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Sara Kelly Watts  
Tom & Robbie Pettry, Carol & David  
Re



#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

#### Bibliocipher

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LKG HK MKPNLVDRVL UC  
NUWBHVPLCVLL NVE  
UC AVNJM; ONVYF PE  
MKPN QYDDKG WNKPCX:  
QKN UH UL HUAV HK  
LUVF HBV DKNX, HUDD  
BV JKAV YCQ NYUC  
NUWBHVPLCVLL PEKC  
MKP.

BKLVY HVC: HGVDRL

Clue: B = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Five Thirty-Two.

# Teens' signatures to build TLW momentum

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Young people committed to sexual abstinence until marriage are being asked to keep building the momentum of their movement.

The national True Love Waits (TLW) campaign is seeking the signatures of 2,000 to 3,000 teens who have signed the TLW pledge. The signatures, which are needed by Sept. 21, will appear in a two-page advertisement in Roll Call, a newspaper in Washington read by members of Congress, in late September or early October.

The ad will thank members of Congress who, in 1996, voted for a \$250 million federal program to promote abstinence until marriage as the preferred societal standard, according to the organizers of the ad initiative, Focus on the Family and True Love Waits. Focus on the Family will pay the ad's costs.

True Love Waits, which has been at the forefront of the now-international abstinence movement, was launched by LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Sunday School Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1993.

"Congress needs to hear a thank you from teens who appreciate a program that will help them follow their hopes and dreams for sexual purity," a joint news release from Focus and TLW said. The congressional action, they noted, dares to counter the current era in which, "Many of the messages in culture from songs, movies, TV shows and peers do not encourage teens to remain sexually pure."

A key milestone in the abstinence movement's momentum is reflected in the findings of a new study by the federal government's Centers for Disease Control (CDC): Less than half of young people report having engaged in sexual intercourse.

While 48.4% of students remains far too high to most Christians, it is an encouraging decline from the 53.1% of young people who reported having had sexual intercourse, or a 10% decline, according to the findings of a similar CDC Youth Risk Behavior study in 1995.

The following pointers are suggested for True Love Waits youth to participate in the Roll Call ad:

- ◆ On the back of a standard-size business card, sign your name and print your city and state below the name.
- ◆ Try to use the entire space on the back of the card.
- ◆ Use at least a medium-point black ink pen.
- ◆ One name (and city and state) per business card.
- ◆ Return all signed cards by Sept. 21 to: True Love Waits, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234.

Of the recent CDC findings, True Love Waits spokesman Richard Ross said U.S. teens "are marching toward a major fork in the road that will shape

the rest of their lives. For the first time in 20 years, an increasing number are choosing the fork toward sexual abstinence.

Led by the swelling numbers in the True Love Waits movement, these teenagers are headed toward a life of joy, rich relationships and intimacy with God.

"The declining numbers who choose the other fork are making a turn that is increasingly dangerous," said Ross, youth ministry consultant at LifeWay Christian Resources.

"Millions of dollars promoting the latex solution has not changed the fact that literally millions catch diseases each year, babies lose their lives before birth, dreams get shattered and precious teenagers turn away in shame from God."

Among 1,000 sexually active teens, Ross noted, 250 teens will contract a sexually transmitted disease each year, at current rates.

One STD, chlamydia, has reached such epidemic proportions that teenage girls should be examined for it twice a year, instead of the currently recom-

mended yearly testing, according to a study reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association in August.

Citing the words of Scripture that "a little child shall lead them," Ross pointed to the irony

"that the trend toward moral purity is springing from some of our youngest citizens, rather than

from . the example of our national leaders.

"The hippies of the '60s saw the moral hypocrisy and duplicity of adults and responded by throwing values to the wind.

"Christian teenagers today are equally aware of the failures of parents, office holders, and even religious leaders.

"However, they are responding completely differently. A growing number are rejecting promiscuity and its devastating consequences, and choosing God's very best. That gives us great hope for the future."

The congressional funding — \$250 million in Title V funds over five years — is to be used by the states to teach abstinence-only sex education.

While almost every state has applied for the funds, not all

are using them for the proper purpose, said Peter Brandt, a spokesman for the National Coalition for Abstinence Education (NCAE), in a review of the congressional action.

In other news in the abstinence front:

♦ In a study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 40% of 203 HIV-infected men and women said they had not told their sexual partners they are HIV-positive, according to an Aug. 21 report in The Pastor's Weekly Briefing, also published by Focus on the Family.

Less than half the HIV-positive group reported using condoms during every sexual encounter.

A frequent reason cited for not disclosing their condition: fear of upsetting or losing their sexual partner.

♦ In a study of 398 unmarried couples, women with children were significantly more depressed than married mothers, USA Today reported Aug. 20.

A key factor, according to sociologist Susan Brown of Bowling Green (Ohio) State University, involved feelings about the relationship's high chances of breaking up.

For more information on TLW in Mississippi, contact the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Multi-phase abstinence effort planned to serve as bridge to new millennium

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Hoopla about the next millennium won't derail True Love Waits (TLW) from its mission of persuading teens to a commitment of sexual abstinence until marriage.

"The True Love Waits theme for 1999-2000 is 'Crossing Bridges with Purity,'" said Richard Ross, TLW spokesman and youth ministry coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The bridge motif, he said, will symbolize "students who are moving into a new era of history with a strong commitment to moral purity."

The now-international TLW campaign, in which 80 Christian entities have joined forces since its launch by Southern Baptists in 1993, plans a multi-phase effort:

♦ Local/city displays of commitment cards signed by teens: During the months of January and February 1999, students will conduct True Love Waits campaigns in churches and schools to challenge their peers to commit to sexual abstinence until marriage.

On Friday, Feb. 12, 1999, churches, local youth groups, community organizations, and schools will come together to create a community display of pledge cards, perhaps on a local bridge or other focal point in the community.

♦ State displays: Cards from the community displays will be gathered and sent to a central point in the state for a state display in the spring or summer.

♦ National display: Cards from all 50 state displays will be sent to San Francisco for a national display at the Golden Gate Bridge on Oct. 2, 1999.

Organizers hope to collect enough cards to span the entire one-mile length of the bridge.

"Many leaders consider the 1994 display of True Love Waits cards on the Mall in Washington a watershed event in the Christian abstinence movement," Ross recounted. "The national display in 1999 can once again rivet the attention of the country on students who have made a powerful lifestyle choice."

♦ International display: Cards from the United States and other countries will be sent to a site near the International Date Line to be displayed together the final week of December 1999.

"The display will be a symbol of students around the world who are moving into a new era of history with their heads held high in a strong commitment to moral purity," Ross said.

More information about the True Love Waits initiative can be found at the Internet site, [www.truelovewaits.com](http://www.truelovewaits.com), or by calling (800) LUV-WAIT.

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